and bring in exchange other articles which they might require. Unless they who formed the labour of the land for paddy cultivation were thus protected and helped, it was impossible for the landlords to get labour. Thus their elevation was a matter of economic importance also.

In the southern taluks of Agastiswaram, Tovala and Eraniel alone there were about 200 villages, exclusively inhabited by the depressed classes, and their population was about 50,000. If an investigation could be made of the villages, it would be found that the means of communication they had was of the poorest kind. Their condition in respect of roads was brought to the notice of the late Dewan, Sir Rajagopalachari, and, as a result of the representation made, about 70 village roads were sanctioned by Government but not one was made till now. It was not requested that all the roads required should be cut immediately; but the programme might be carried out in an year or two. The lanes were there and they formed the property of Government ; they had been invariably encroached upon. If the encroachments could be removed and the lanes broadened, the people themselves would, by their personal labour, make it cartable. As a first step the 9 villages of Kakkad, Kadetti, Narikulam, Bheemanagari, Ratnapuram, Puliaudy, Ambilikonam, Kuppayady and Ikkianam might be taken up and a road given to each village. There was a proposal to cut a road through Kakannoor line which was highly objectionable, as it was circuitous to a length of miles. It was possible to cut a road less than a mile from near the southern extremity of the Suchindram bridge southwards. It was also too far from the Suchindram temple to trench on its sanctity. It would cost a very much smaller sum, as it would pass through a *poramboke* lane. In the case of the other 8 village roads also, there were *poramboke* lanes which had been encroached upon. In conclusion, the Member prayed for the Kakkad road being given first.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the Kakkad road, the late Dewan, Sir Rajagopalachari, has decided, after inspection, that the road is not necessary. That is the final decision of Government with reference to this road. The other roads are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer. As regards the encroachments, the Member will do well to draw the attention of the Dewan Peishkar.

67. Repair to, and improvement of, irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. M. Krishna Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) submitted that, in response to the representations of the people, an annual grant of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned in 1066 for the repair, and improvement of, the irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk and that it was not continued long, as the extension of the Kodayar Irrigation scheme to the taluk was talked of. As that project also failed, the people began to ventilate their grievances as a result of which a Committee was appointed to undertake a thorough investigation and propose definite steps to be taken to put the irrigation tanks in order. The P. W. Sub-Divisional Officer and the Tahsildar had been at work and had made out a list of 150 tanks including the Karuppatty and Vandiyur *chiras*. It had been stated that an estimate of cost for improving the 150 tanks was in course of preparation. To judge from past experience, it was not likely that the estimate would arrive in the Huzur Cutcherry in time for inclusion in the next year's budget. In effect, nothing would be done during the current year also. The opinion of the President and other official members of the Committee was that, if practical work should be turned out, a definite amount of money should be sanctioned and with that amount the repair and restoration of such number of tanks as could be easily carried out should begin. That was the view of the people also. The Member's request, therefore, was that a definite amount should be sanctioned and that amount should be proportionately divided among the various *pakuthies*. Under the Irrigation Regulation, the irrigation works could be divided into major minor, and petty. There should be an authenticated list dividing the irrigation tanks under the three heads. The people should do the restoration of all the petty works, which they would do if the list was ready.

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It had been said that a portion of the Vellayini lake could be reclaimed and turned to paddy cultivation. The water from all the places around used to collect in the lake and find its outlet into the Karamanai river through one channel. Even that outlet was obstructed on account of certain defects in the channel. Such being the case, the paddy crops in the Vellayini backwater often suffered. It was desirable to have an investigation conducted by an Assistant Engineer before the reclamation of any portion of the Vellayini lake was thought of.

In the Kolikottu *ela* near Kurandikara a culvert was constructed at Sirkar cost and the money expended was afterwards realised from the ryots. Unfortunately, that culvert was washed away by floods. The people themselves then put up the culvert. Their present prayer was that half the cost might be made good by Government. The Member then presented a memorial of the people on the subject.

The Member then requested that the four traces referred to in the representation of Mr. Kali Pillai at the fifteenth Session of the Assembly should be improved and made useful for cart traffic. The Ooruttampalam-Malayinkil trace could be made useful, if a small bridge could be put up over a rivulet cutting the trace.

Lastly, the Member prayed that the trace from Thatchottukavu to Anthiyurkonam should receive immediate attention. It was three miles long out of which a distance of two miles was uneven. The remaining one mile lay in a valley and the necessary lands for improving and broadening the trace were now available, either given free by the people or acquired by Government. On account of the delay in the execution of the work, encroachments were taking place, and if immediate action was not taken, it would be impossible to identify the lands.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be duly considered.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-45 P. M.

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